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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,991	04/21/2004	David M. Hilbert	FXPL-01098US0	5500
23910	7590	01/06/2010	EXAMINER	
FLIESLER MEYER LLP 650 CALIFORNIA STREET 14TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108			PHAM, LUU T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2437	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/06/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/828,991	Applicant(s) HILBERT ET AL.	
	Examiner LUU PHAM	Art Unit 2437	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13, 15-39, 41, 43-67, 69, 71-84 and 91-96 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13, 15-39, 41, 43-67, 69, 71-84 and 91-96 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Amendment filed on 09/08/2009.
2. In the instant Amendment, claims 91-96 have been added; claims 12, 14, 40, 42, 68, 70, and 85-90 were cancelled; claims 1, 29, and 57 have been amended; and claims 1, 29, and 57 are independent claims. Claims 1-11, 13, 15-39, 41, 43-67, 69, 71-84, and 91-96 have been examined and are pending. **This Action is made FINAL.**

Response to Arguments

3. The rejections of claims 1-84 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are withdrawn as the claims have been amended.
4. Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 1, 29, and 57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

5. The Specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Corrections of the following are required:

Claims 1, 29, and 57 recite the limitation "*changes made by the file sharer to the file in the original location are reflected in the proxy representation provided to the remote user;*" However, the aforementioned limitation is not found in the Specification. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation.

Claims 91, 94, and 96 recited the limitation “*after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server;*” (emphasis added).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. **Claims 1-11, 13, 15-39, 41, 43-67, 69, 71-84, and 91-96 are rejected under 35**

U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

- **Regarding claims 1, 29, and 57;** claims 1, 29, and 57 recite the limitation “*changes made by the file sharer to the file in the original location are reflected in the proxy representation provided to the remote user;*” However, the aforementioned limitation is not discussed in the specification. The Examiner respectfully requests the Applicant point out where in the specification support can be found for the aforementioned

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newly added limitations. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

- **Regarding claims 2-11, 13, 15-28, 30-39, 41, 43-56, 58-67, 69, 71-84, and 91-96;** claims 2-11, 13, 15-28, 30-39, 41, 43-56, 58-67, 69, 71-84, and 91-96 are dependent on either claim 1, 29, or 2, and therefore inherit the 35 U.S.C 112, first paragraph issues of the independent claims.

- **Regarding claims 92, 94, and 96;** claims 92, 94, and 96 recite the limitation “after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server;” (*emphasis added*). However, the aforementioned limitation is not discussed in the specification. The Examiner respectfully requests the Applicant point out where in the specification support can be found for the aforementioned newly added limitations. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. **Claims 1, 29, 57, and 91-96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)** as being anticipated by Parker et al., (hereinafter “Parker”), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0010607, filed on October 31, 2003.

- **Regarding claim 1**, Parker discloses a method for sharing files with remote users (*pars. 0006-0011; Figs. 1-3*), the method comprising:

accepting, at a proxy server, a request from a file sharer to share a file in an original location with a remote user (*pars. 0037-0043 and 0090-0095; Figs. 4-5 and 9-13; access server 170 receives data of file 222 through network file transfer interface 172. Server 170 stores the data in storage 174, from which file accessor 198 can eventually obtain it to view or edit file 222, depending on his or her level of authorization*), the file located at a file source inside an internal private network of the file sharer, said private network having a firewall (*par. 0041; Fig. 1; a firewall-type module can be implemented to detect the presence of a file attachment in a message, just before transmission via network connection 14*);

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accessing the file sharer's credentials that enable the proxy server to access the file in the original location at the file source inside said private network (*pars. 0034-0038, 0059-0066, and 0079-0086; Figs. 4-5; an authorization database module maintains a database of authorized accessors and authorization status for each user*);

retrieving the file from the original location to the proxy server by using said file sharer's credentials (*pars. 0031, 0035, 0038, 0041-0045, and 0061-0065; Figs. 1-3 and 9-13; wherein at least steps 246 and 350; process 246 then transmits data of file 222 to access server 170*);

generating a proxy representation for the file in the original location on the proxy server (*pars. 0031, 0040-0045, 0059, 0085-0086, and 0109; Figs. 1-2 and 7-19; wherein at least step 242: 'create reference to file' and step 740: 'copy and compress file to access server'; if address 226 is authorized for direct file access, process 242 creates a reference to file 222; a file reference can be a hyperlink that allows user to access to the shared file*), the proxy representation associated with the remote user and storing location information of the file on the proxy server (*pars. 0031, 0040-0045, 0076-0078 and 0085-0086; Figs. 1-2; a file reference can be a hyperlink; it includes both human-readable indicia (e.g., a file name) and associated machine-readable indicia (e.g., a network address from which the file can be retrieved); a file reference can consist of just text identifying a network address, which a file accessor can enter into a suitable field (e.g., an address field of a Web browser) to retrieve the file*), wherein the location information is used to reference the file in the original location inside the internal private network (*0031, 0040-0045, 0059, 0076-0078, 0085-0086, and 0109; Figs. 1-2; a file reference according to various aspects of the*

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invention includes any indicia identifying a location of a file; a file reference can be a hyperlink);

enabling access to the proxy representation for the remote user that resides externally with respect to the internal private network (*pars. 0031, 0040-0045, 0076-0078 and 0085-0086; Figs. 1-2; accessor can access the shared file using a file reference; the file reference may consist of just text identifying a network address or a hyperlink*), wherein the remote user is allowed to modify the proxy representation on the proxy server (*pars. 0035 and 0101-0129; Figs. 1-3 and 9-19; user B edits the shared file to version v1 from version v0*);

receiving one or more modifications to the proxy representation (*pars. 0101-0129; Figs. 9-19; server 990 maintains a separate file data set 1220; user B edits the file to rev 1; user A changes shared file from 1 to rev 2; and user D modifies shared file from rev 3 to rev 4*); and

using the file sharer's credentials to update the file in the original location inside the internal private network from where the file was retrieved based on the modifications to the proxy representation received at the proxy server by using the location information (*pars. 0031, 0040-0045, 0076-0078, 0085-0086, and 0101-0129; Figs. 9-19; User A's computer 1020 retrieves delta data from server 990; rev 0 of the shared file is replaced by rev 1 modified by user B; similarly, rev 3 of the shared file is updated to obtain rev 4 edited by user D*);

wherein after the updating, when the file sharer accesses the file in the original location, changes to the proxy representation made by the remote user are reflected in the

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file in the original location (*pars. 0118-0120 and 0123-0129; Figs. 9-19; User A's computer 1020 retrieves delta data from server 990; rev 0 of the shared file is replaced by rev 1 modified by user B; similarly, rev 3 of the shared file is updated to obtain rev 4 edited by user D*); and

wherein changes made by the file sharer to the file in the original location are reflected in the proxy representation provided to the remote user (*pars. 0101-0129; Figs. 9-19; user B's computer 1030 and user C's computer 1440 retrieve data 1932 of the file's full contents at 'rev 4' because neither file data set 1034 of computer 1030 nor file data set 1530 of computer 1440 include the file at the immediately previous 'rev 3'*).

- **Regarding claim 29**, claim 29 is similar in scope to claim 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claim 57**, claim 57 is similar in scope to claims 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claim 91**, Parker discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the file sharer prior to updating the file in the original location to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation (*pars. 0118 and 0124; Figs. 13 and 19; user A accesses 'rev 1' data from server 990 via a file reference in e-mail message 1240*).
- **Regarding claim 92**, Parker discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the proxy server, after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from

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which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server (*pars. 0045-0048, 0070-0075, and 0110-0129; Figs. 9-19; only persons granted a specific level of authorization are able to exercise that authorization; server 990 can patches the original 'rev 0' and to replace 'rev 0' by 'rev 1'; then patches the resulting 'rev 1' state of the file with 'rev 2' delta data in data set 994; and then patches the resulting 'rev 2' state of the file with the 'rev 3' delta data, also in data set 994*).

- **Regarding claims 93-94**, claims 93-94 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claims 95-96**, claims 95-96 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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11. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12. **Claims 1-11, 13, 15-16, 19-39, 41, 43-44, 47-67, 69, 71-72, 75-84, and 91-96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Gong, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0064733, filed on June 26, 2003, in view of DeBry, U.S. Patent No. 6,385,728, issued on May 07, 2002, and further in view of Parker et al., (hereinafter "Parker"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0010607, filed on October 31, 2003.

- **Regarding claim 1**, Gong discloses a method for sharing files with remote users, the method comprising:

accepting, at a proxy server, a request from a file sharer to share a file in an original location with a remote user (*pars. 0009, 0020, 0029, and 0031-0034; Fig. 2; user sends emails with attachments through email client interface; Project/Information Management Server (IMS) receives the attachment files or documents along with identification information (descriptor and locator); [location where the IMS stores attachment files is considered as original location]*), the file located at a file source inside

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an internal private network of the file sharer, said private network having a firewall (*par. 0009; ; Project/Information Management Server (IMS) can be installed inside or outside companies' firewalls*);

accessing the file sharer's credentials that enable [[the proxy server]] to access the file in the original location at the file source inside said private network (*pars. 0009, 0030, and 0033; users can access the Client Project Information Management Web Interface to manage attachment information; login authentication is needed; sender logs into the IMS and sends email with attached documents to recipients; attached documents are stored at the IMS*) inside said private network (*par. 0009; Project/Information Management Server (IMS) can be installed inside or outside companies' firewalls*);

retrieving the file from the original location to the proxy server by using said file sharer's credentials (*par. 0009, 0012, 0034, and 0038; Fig. 2; the attachment will be detached from the original mail message content and will be stored into a local storage area of the IMS; that implies the IMS is obtained the original file from the web-mail client/sender*) by using said file sharer's credentials (*par. 0009; The Information Management Server will apply document management rules/commands (such as Edit, Delete, Modify, Link, Associate, etc.) specified by the e-mail sender on the stored attachment files; recipients receive descriptor and locator to be able to access to the attached documents; permission to access the Client Information Management Web Interface will be administrated by the original email creator or the group project organizer*);

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generating a proxy representation for the file in the original location on the proxy server, the proxy representation associated with the remote user and storing location information of the file on the proxy server (*pars. 0009, 0031-0034, and 0036-0038; Fig. 2; a unique attachment descriptor and locator will be generated to identify the save attachment; a version controlled copy of the original attachment from the IMS; the IMS will pass the version controlled file(s) back to Adapter Engine, then to recipient local machine; the recipient can modify the file(s) in his/her local machine and check in the modified version through email*), wherein the location information is used to reference the file in the original location inside the internal private network (*par. 0009; ; Project/Information Management Server (IMS) can be installed inside or outside companies' firewalls*);

enabling access to the proxy representation for the remote user that resides externally with respect to the internal private network (*pars. 0009 and 0036-0038; Fig. 2; recipient(s) can access the attachment(s) directly through Client Information Management Web Interface*), wherein the remote user is allowed to modify the proxy representation on the proxy server (*pars. 0009 and 0036-0038; recipient(s) can access the attachment(s) directly through Client Information Management Web Interface; the recipient can modify the file(s) in his/her local machine and check in the modified version through e-mail or through Client Information Management Web Interface*);

receiving one or more modifications to the proxy representation (*pars. 0009 and 0038; the recipient can modify the file(s) in his/her local machine and check in the*

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modified version through e-mail or through Client Information Management Web Interface); and

using the file sharer's credentials to update the file in the original location inside the internal private network (pars. 0009, 0012, 0033, and 0036-0038; Fig. 2; recipient(s) can access the attachment(s) directly through Client Information Management Web Interface; recipient is able to edit and update attached documents) inside the internal private network (par. 0009; Project/Information Management Server (IMS) can be installed inside or outside companies' firewalls) from where the file was retrieved based on the modifications to the proxy representation received at the proxy server by using the location information (pars. 0009, 0012, 0033, and 0037-0038; Fig. 2; all users having rights to access the attachments will receive e-mail notifications for any version or content update of a file; IMS will manage and log all check-in, checkout and modification activities related to the attachment, and maintain one updated master copy);

Gong and DeBry disclose all limitations as recited above, but do not explicitly disclose after the updating, when the file sharer accesses the file in the original location, changes to the proxy representation made by the remote user are reflected in the file in the original location; and changes made by the file sharer to the file in the original location are reflected in the proxy representation provided to the remote user.

However, in an analogous art, Parker discloses a collaborative file update system, wherein after the updating, when the file sharer accesses the file in the original location, changes to the proxy representation made by the remote user are reflected in the file in the original location (Parker: pars. 0118-0120 and 0123-0129; Figs. 9-19; User A's

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computer 1020 retrieves delta data from server 990; rev 0 of the shared file is replaced by rev 1 modified by user B; similarly, rev 3 of the shared file is updated to obtain rev 4 edited by user D); and wherein changes made by the file sharer to the file in the original location are reflected in the proxy representation provided to the remote user (Parker: pars. 0101-0129; Figs. 9-19; user B's computer 1030 and user C's computer 1440 retrieve data 1932 of the file's full contents at 'rev 4' because neither file data set 1034 of computer 1030 nor file data set 1530 of computer 1440 include the file at the immediately previous 'rev 3')

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Parker with the method and system of Gong and DeBry, to include steps of after the updating, when the file sharer accesses the file in the original location, changes to the proxy representation made by the remote user are reflected in the file in the original location; and changes made by the file sharer to the file in the original location are reflected in the proxy representation provided to the remote user to provide users with a collaborative file update system, wherein the data represents an initial version of the file and designates one or more recipients of the initial version, then for each one of sequentially updated versions of the file, data representing a difference between the updated version of the file and an immediately previous version of the file is accepted from a user (*Parker: abstract*).

- **Regarding claim 2**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and DeBry further disclose accessing the credentials comprises accepting the credentials from the file sharer (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0033; users can access and change the environment setting by login through Client Information Management Web*

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Interface; DeBry: col. 7, lines 43-54; col. 9, lines 5-27; col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5).

- **Regarding claim 3**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and DeBry further disclose accessing the credentials comprises retrieving previously stored credentials (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0033; DeBry: col. 7, lines 43-54; col. 9, lines 5-27; col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5).*

- **Regarding claim 4**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and DeBry further disclose using the credentials to store a cached copy of the file in association with the proxy representation (*Gong: pars. 0009, 0031, and 0033-0036; DeBry: col. 7, lines 43-54; col. 9, lines 5-27; col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5).*

- **Regarding claim 5**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong and DeBry further disclose storing the credentials in association with the proxy representation (*Gong: par. 0009 and 0034; permission to access the Client Information Management Web Interface will be administrated by the original email creator; IMS will manage and log all check-in, checkout and modification activities related to the attachment; DeBry: col. 7, lines 43-54; col. 9, lines 5-27; col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5).*

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- **Regarding claim 6**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses accepting a view request from the remote user (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0035-0036; Fig. 2*); and enabling the remote user to view the file (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036; Fig. 2*).

- **Regarding claim 7**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses accepting a share request from the remote user (*Gong: pars. 0009, 0020-0021, and 0029; Fig. 2; mail client sends a messages with attachment to a recipient*); and enabling the remote user to share the file with a third party (*Gong: pars. 0009, 0021-0023, 0031-0036; Fig. 2; recipient gets the message and requires downloading the attached file(s)*).

- **Regarding claim 8**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses accepting an email request from the remote user (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029*); and transmitting an email associated with the file (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029*).

- **Regarding claim 9**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

DeBry further discloses accepting a print request from the remote user (*DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 515*); and transmitting a print request associated with the file to a remote print service (*DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 520-525*).

- **Regarding claim 10**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

DeBry further discloses accepting a fax request from the remote user (*DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; col. 12, lines 14-21; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 520-525; a fax machine may be understood to be a printer in the context of this invention*); and transmitting a fax request associated with the file to a remote fax service (*DeBry: col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; col. 12, lines 14-21; Figs. 1, 4, and 5; wherein at least step 520-525; a fax machine may be understood to be a printer in the context of this invention*).

- **Regarding claim 11**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses the request comprises a request generated by:

viewing a representation of the file within a graphical user interface (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029; a dynamic link of all projects (attachment related) to which a user subscribed will be conveniently displayed on email or web-mail client interface*);

selecting the representation of the file within the graphical user interface (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029; user sends emails with attachments through email client interface (Outlook, etc.) or web browser based web-mail client interface (Hotmail, etc.)*);

viewing a menu associated with the file, the menu displaying actions that can be performed on the file (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029*); and

selecting a share option from the menu (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029*).

- **Regarding claim 13**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses generating the proxy representation comprises generating a proxy representation configured to enable the remote user to read the file (*Gong: pars. 0009, 0033-0034, and 0038*).

- **Regarding claim 15**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses determining if a database entry associated with the remote user is stored on an account database (*Gong: pars. 0009, 0030, and 0033*).

- **Regarding claim 16**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 15.

Gong further discloses storing the proxy representation in association with the database entry associated with the remote user in response to a positive determination (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0029-0036; after successfully logging into user's email account, the user is able to either send email with attachments or downloading the attached file*).

- **Regarding claim 19**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.

Gong further discloses accepting a retrieval request from the remote user (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0035-0038*).

- **Regarding claim 20**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 19.

Gong and DeBry further disclose using the credentials to retrieve the file (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0033-0037; DeBry: col. 7, lines 43-54; col. 9, lines 5-27; col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5*).

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- **Regarding claim 21**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 19.

Gong and DeBry further discloses the retrieval request includes authentication information for the remote user (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0033-0037; DeBry: col. 7, lines 43-54; col. 9, lines 5-27; col. 10, lines 45-67 to col. 11, lines 1-15; Figs. 1, 4, and 5*).

- **Regarding claim 22**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 19.

Gong further discloses providing access to a cached version of the file (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038*).

- **Regarding claim 23**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 19.

Gong further discloses accepting a modification request from the remote user (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038*).

- **Regarding claim 24**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 23.

Gong further discloses the modification request includes authentication information (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038*).

- **Regarding claim 25**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 23.

Gong further discloses using the credentials to modify the file (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038*).

- **Regarding claim 26**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 23.

Gong further discloses modifying a cached version of the file in response to the modification request (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038*); and notifying the file sharer that the cached version has been modified (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0038; all users having rights*

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to access the attachments will receive email notifications for any version or content update of a file).

- **Regarding claim 27**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 26.

Gong further discloses synchronizing the file with the cached version in response to a request from the file sharer (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0036-0038*).

- **Regarding claim 28**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 25.

Gong further discloses notifying the file sharer that the file has been modified (*Gong: pars. 0009 and 0038; all users having rights to access the attachments will receive email notifications for any version or content update of a file*).

- **Regarding claim 29**, claim 29 is similar in scope to claim 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 30-39**, claims 30-39 are similar in scope to claims 2-11 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 41**, claim 41 is similar in scope to claim 13, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 43-44**, claims 43-44 are similar in scope to claims 15-16 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 47-56**, claims 47-56 are similar in scope to claims 19-28 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claim 57**, claim 57 is similar in scope to claims 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claims 58-67**, claims 58-67 are similar in scope to claims 2-11, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claim 69**, claim 69 is similar in scope to claim 13, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claims 71-72**, claims 71-72 are similar in scope to claims 15-16 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claims 75-84**, claims 75-84 are similar in scope to claims 19-28, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claim 91**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.
Parker further discloses notifying the file sharer prior to updating the file in the original location to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation (*Parker: (pars. 0118 and 0124; Figs. 13 and 19; user A accesses 'rev 1' data from server 990 via a file reference in e-mail message 1240))*).
- **Regarding claim 92**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 1.
Parker further discloses the proxy server, after receiving the modifications to the proxy representation, automatically logs into the file source by using the credentials and updates the file in the original location from which the file was originally retrieved to reflect the changes made to the proxy representation at the proxy server (*Parker: pars.*

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0045-0048, 0070-0075, and 0110-0129; Figs. 9-19; only persons granted a specific level of authorization are able to exercise that authorization; server 990 can patches the original 'rev 0' and to replace 'rev 0' by 'rev 1'; then patches the resulting 'rev 1' state of the file with 'rev 2' delta data in data set 994; and then patches the resulting 'rev 2' state of the file with the 'rev 3' delta data, also in data set 994).

- **Regarding claims 93-94**, claims 93-94 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

- **Regarding claims 95-96**, claims 95-96 are similar in scope to claims 91-92 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

13. **Claims 17-18, 45-46, and 73-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Gong, DeBry, and Parker, as applied to claims 1, 29, and 57 above, in view of Jhingan et al., (hereinafter "Jhingan"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0186851, filed on March 21, 2003.

- **Regarding claim 17**, Gong, DeBry, and Parker disclose the method of claim 15.

Gong, DeBry, and Parker do not explicitly disclose generating a new database entry associated with the proxy representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination.

However, in an analogous art, Jhingan discloses a method for email attachment distribution, wherein generating a new database entry associated with the proxy

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representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination (*Jhingan: par. 0057; in situation where the recipient system 102 does not exists, then a new user profile is created for which the user can submit a password and preferred location for future deliveries*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Jhingan with the method and system of Gong, DeBry, and Parker to include the steps of generating a new database entry associated with the proxy representation for the remote user in response to a negative determination to provide user with a means for enabling collaboration through large email attachment (*Jhingan: par. 0008*).

- **Regarding claim 18**, Gong, DeBry, Parker, and Jhingan disclose the method of claim 17.

Jhingan further discloses transmitting an email containing a registration key to the remote user (*Jhingan: par. 0034; the locator object may be embedded as a linked object with the email and sent to a recipient system 102; the attachment associated with the locator code may be downloaded from a server to the recipient system 102*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Jhingan with the method and system of Gong, DeBry, and Parker to include the steps of transmitting an email containing a registration key to the remote user to provide user with a means for enabling collaboration through large email attachment (*Jhingan: par. 0008*).

- **Regarding claims 45-46**, claims 45-46 are similar in scope to claims 17-18, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.
- **Regarding claims 73-74**, claims 73-74 are similar in scope to claims 17-18, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luu Pham whose telephone number is 571-270-5002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (EST).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel L. Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Luu Pham/
Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Emmanuel L. Moise/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2437